This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A nurse call interface system for sensing if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening, said nurse call interface system comprising:

a sensor pad for positioning below said patient to receive weight of said patient thereon;

sensor pad connections for connecting said sensor pad to a nurse call interface;

said nurse call interface including:

a plug that recognizes a contact closure between its tip and its sleeve, said plug being designed to be received by said nurse call interface opening;

a source of power for said nurse call interface, said source of power feeding through said sensor pad connections to said sensor pad;

a microprocessor in said nurse call interface for receiving a loss of weight signal from said sensor pad via said sensor pad connections if weight of said patient is no longer on said sensor pad;

first warning signal being generated by said microprocessor upon receiving said loss of weight signal, said first warning signal being sent via a nurse call interface plug in said nurse call box to said nurse;

said microprocessor also allowing for a second warning signal from a nurse call button connecting therethrough via said nurse call interface plug and

said nurse call box to said nurse ;

said nurse call interface being constructed so that said first warning signal and said second warning signal will not interfere with each other.

2. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in claim 1 wherein said nurse call interface includes a voltage regulator between said source of power and said microprocessor to maintain at least a predetermined voltage level at said microprocessor, said microprocessor generating said first warning signal if said predetermined voltage level is not maintained.

3. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in claim [2] 1 further including a light that is turned on by said microprocessor when said nurse call interface system is operating.

4. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in Claim [3] 1 further comprising a connector for loading and updating code connected to said microprocessor

5. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is

no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in Claim [4] 1 further comprising a jack for receiving input from said nurse call button.

6. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in Claim 5 wherein said jack has at least two pins that reduce the resistance through a connected resistor when said sensor pad is depressed.

7. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in Claim 6 wherein said jack has at least 2 pins that maintain a short therethrough, whereby when said short occurs said nurse call interface begins operating.

8. (Currently amended) The nurse call interface system for sensing if said patient is no longer in a predetermined position to signal a nurse through a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening as recited in Claim [7] 1 wherein said microprocessor has a capacitor to prevent power of said microprocessor from propagating into the remainder of said nurse call interface.

9. (Currently amended) A method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening, comprising the steps of:

positioning a sensor pad below said patient to receive weight of said patient thereon;

connecting said sensor pad to a nurse call interface;

providing power to said sensor pad and said nurse call interface with a power source;

inserting a nurse call interface plug that recognizes a contact closure between its tip and its sleeve into said nurse call interface opening;

sending a loss of weight signal from said sensor pad to a microprocessor if weight of said patient is no longer on said sensor pad;

closing a relay switch within said nurse call interface;

generating a first warning signal upon receipt by said microprocessor of said loss of weight signal;

second sending said first warning signal via a nurse call interface plug to a nurse;

[second] generating a second warning signal upon receipt by said microprocessor of a signal from a nurse call button; and

third sending said second warning signal via said nurse call interface plug to said nurse;

wherein said first warning signal and said second warning signal do not interfere with each other.

10. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim 9 further comprising maintaining a predetermined voltage level at said microprocessor, said microprocessor generating said first warning signal if said predetermined voltage level is not maintained.

11. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim [10] 9 further comprising loading and updating code for said microprocessor.

12. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim [11] 9 wherein said sending step further comprises the step of said microprocessor sensing the voltage from a resistor in the connection from said sensor pad.

13. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim 12 wherein said sending step occurs when the voltage sensed by said microprocessor from said resistor rises above a first predetermined value.

14. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim 13 wherein said first predetermined value is 2.5 volts.

15. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim [14] 9 wherein said second generating step further comprises the step of said microprocessor sensing a voltage in the connection from said nurse call button.

16. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim [15] 9 further comprising regulating the voltage in the connection from said power source.

17. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim [16] 9 further comprising the step of transmitting a signal from a voltage comparator to said microprocessor when the voltage sensed by said voltage comparator from said power supply drops below a second predetermined value.

18. (Currently amended) The method for sensing and signaling if a patient is no longer in a predetermined position of a bed in connection with a nurse call box having a nurse call interface opening of Claim 17 wherein said second predetermined value is 5.8 volts.